Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 CIEP-01 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 ARAE-00 /037 W

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O 032058Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9096

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 00037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, IDB, EAID, ENRG, CO, JM

SUBJECT: IDB FINANCING OF OIL REFINERIES

REF: STATE 313925

- 1. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT COLOMBIAN GASOLINE PRICING POLICY SHOULD BE GIVEN TOO MUCH NEGATIVE WEIGHT IN ASSESING SUITABILITY OF CARTAGENA REFINERY. THE FREEZE ON GASOLINE PRICES INSTITUTED BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION IS BEING GRADUALLY ELIMINATED.
- 2. ECOPETROL GIVES THE PROJECT A HIGH PRIORITY BECAUSE IT WILL ALLOW A DECREASE IN GASOLINE IMPORTS BY OPTIMIZING THE REFINERY PRODUCT MIX. GIVEN THE PRICING POLICY IN THE COUNTRY, WHICH WHILE BEING ADJUSTED, IS BEING ADJUSTED TO AVERAGE COSTS RATHER THAN TO MARGINAL COSTS, THE INCREASED PRODUCTION OF LIGHTER PRODUCTS WILL STRENGHTEN ECOPETROL'S FINANCIAL POSITION.
- 3. ON THE OTHER HAND THIS REFINERY DOES NOT PLAY ANN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE COLOMBIAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH EMPHASIZES LABOR INTENSIVE OUTPUT. MORE OVER, WE ASSUME THAT IF THE PROJECT MAKES FINANCIAL SENSE CONFIDENTIAL

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ADEQUATE EX IM OR OTHER SUPPLIER CREDITS COULD BE FOUND TO FINANCE IT. WHILE ECOPETROL IS FINANCIALLY WEAK AT PRESENT, COLOMBIA'S ABILITY TO CONTRACT EXTERNAL CREDIT FOR THIS TYPE OF PROJECT HAS PROBABLY NEVER BEEN STRONGER. SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Control Number: n/a

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Decaption Note:

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Subject: IDB FINANCING OF OIL REFINERIES

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, ENRG, CO, IDB

To: STATE Type: TE

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